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Statement of Chairman Richard Burr

September 27, 2016

I'd like to welcome our witness today, Mr. Robert Cardillo, the Director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, or NGA.

Robert, we on this Committee hear from your organization frequently, we read your products daily, and we value the insights and assessments that NGA brings to the table. As you well know, we typically hold our hearings in a closed setting so we can discuss freely classified programs. Today, however, I want to offer this open hearing as an opportunity to let the American people know more about the NGA, the mission your workforce is tasked with, and the unique value your organization brings to bear.

The NGA arguably has the broadest customer set of any organization within the Intelligence Community: it includes the warfighter, the policymaker, all-source intelligence agencies, foreign allies, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, state and local first responders, and others. The NGA's products range from highly classified intelligence assessments to unclassified maps.

The NGA supports the warfighter and policy maker on a daily basis. Less well known, though, are your other missions. The NGA has supported disaster relief operations such as the responses to hurricanes here at home,

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earthquakes in Haiti and Japan, and forest fires in the western U.S. You support special events like the Super Bowl and Presidential inaugurations, as well as provide advanced data for the Global Positioning System, a capability that touches all our lives.

As we've discussed previously, and you reference in your statement for the record, the explosion in publicly available information and commercial imagery systems means the intelligence community no longer has a monopoly on accesses or insights. You had previously stated your intent to leverage these new realities by encouraging the NGA to operate more in the open. I would welcome your assessment of how that is progressing.

Robert, you are designated as the functional manager of the nation's geospatial intelligence enterprise, an important function. I hope during your testimony you can discuss progress you've made in exercising your authorities to better coordinate the collection, analysis, and dissemination of GEOINT across the intelligence community.

I would like to remind members that we are in an open hearing. While the Director may be able to describe how GEOINT is applied to a number of intelligence topics, and perhaps provide his agency's assessments of certain topics, he may not be able to get into detail on some

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issues. If you are uncertain about the classification of your question, please refer to our staff for assistance.

I would like to note that the NGA will be celebrating its 20th birthday soon. On October 1, 1996, the NGA's predecessor – the National Imagery and Mapping Agency – was established by the Fiscal Year 1997 National Defense Authorization Act. The world certainly has changed dramatically in those twenty years – but I believe your organization, your capabilities, and your tradecraft has evolved along with it. Thank you again for appearing today and I look forward to your testimony.

I will now turn to the distinguished Vice Chairman for any remarks she might have . . .